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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

After the consultations held on 20 December 1991, the President of the Security Council made the following statement to the media on behalf of the members in connection with the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait":

"The members of the Security Council held informal consultations on 6 December 1991 pursuant to paragraph 28 of resolution 687 (1991), paragraph 6 of resolution 700 (1991) and paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991). After hearing all the opinions expressed in the course of the consultations, the President of the Council concluded that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for a modification of the regimes established in paragraphs 22, 23, 24 and 25, as referred to in paragraph 28 of resolution 687 (1991), in paragraph 6 of resolution 700 (1991), and in paragraph 20, as referred to in paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991).

"However, with a view to alleviating the humanitarian conditions for the civilian population in Iraq and in order to facilitate the utilization of paragraph 20 of resolution 687 (1991), the 661 Committee is requested to study immediately those materials and supplies for essential civilian and humanitarian needs as identified in the Ahtisaari report (S/22409) with the purpose of drawing up a list of items which may, with the approval of the Security Council, be transferred from the 'no-objection' procedure to a simple notification procedure. Members of the Council may submit proposals of items for this purpose.

"With regard to imports of items subject to prior approval under the 'no-objection' procedure by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) (i.e. items other than food and medicine), any member of the Committee putting forward an objection to such an import will offer a specific explanation at a meeting of the Committee.

"The members of the Council are aware of reports received concerning the approximately 2,000 Kuwaitis believed to be still detained in Iraq, access by the ICRC to all detainees and places of detention, the return

of Kuwaiti property, and particularly the return of Kuwaiti military equipment and their bearing upon the present state of Iraqi compliance with resolution 687 (1991).

"In light of the above, the Security Council will request the Secretary-General to prepare a factual report on Iraq's compliance with all the obligations placed upon it by resolution 687 (1991) and subsequent relevant resolutions. This report will be made available to the Security Council in good time before the Council undertakes its next review under paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991).

"In the course of consultations it was noted that resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) gave to Iraq the possibility for oil sales to finance the purchase of foodstuffs, medicines and materials and supplies for essential civilian needs for the purpose of providing humanitarian relief. However, this possibility has not yet been used."